debate in West Bengal we find that a number of statements have been made by different political parties and different political leaders. Obviously, Sir, you will not ask me to comment upon the correctness or otherwise of one statement or the other.

Funds for maintenance of NHs in Maharashtra

*284. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds were provided for maintenance of National Highways (NHs) in Maharashtra from 2005 to 2009;

(b) if so, the details of funds provided, year-wise;

(c) the amount spent from the funds provided; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not providing the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry is regularly providing funds for maintenance of National Highways so as to keep them in traffic worthy conditions through the State PWD/NHAI/BRO. The details of the funds allocated/spent from 2005 up to 30.11.2009 are given in Statement which is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Details of Allocation and Utilization of Funds for maintenance and repairs of National Highways in the State of Maharashtra

Year	Amount allocated (Rs. in crores)	Amount utilized (Rs. in crores)
2005-06	64.07	62.07
2006-07	64.74	64.18
2007-08	68.14	68.14
2008-09	94.94	94.94
2009-10	84.24	43.78*

(*up to 30.11.2009)

SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Sir, the figures given by the hon. Minister show a very depressing picture. For the year, 2009-10, whereas, the funds allocated were Rs. 84.24 crores, the amount actually utilised is only 50 per cent, that is, Rs. Rs. 43.78 crores. I would like to submit that maintenance of Highways is as important as building it. Will the Government consider giving stretches of Highways to private corporations to maintain them and get in return only the advertisement value of their products as it is done in some other countries?

SHRI R.P.N. SINGH: Sir, the funds for maintenance of National Highways in the State of Maharashtra has been allocated as Rs. 84 crores. Like in other States, this money is allocated to

the BRO NHAI. Same is in the case of Maharashtra. It is allocated to the State PWD/BRO/NHAI. The State Government has to decide how long it is going to take and how much money is going to be spent by them. We have come up with suggestions to all State Governments that instead of allocating funds for stretches of five kilometres and ten kilometres, we would like you to do it for long stretches so that there is marked improvement in Highways which cannot be done in small patches, but it can be done in long stretches. We have come up with suggestions. I think it is going to be implemented and it will be taken into account from the next year.

SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Does maintenance of National Highways extend only to the maintenance of road surface or also providing breakdown services and first aid services for accidents taking place on the Highways? Or is it only road maintenance?

SHRI R.P.N. SINGH: Sir, as far as maintenance of roads is concerned, we have funds allocated for this purpose. But these funds are not allocated for ambulances, or, for accident-related things. These maintenance works are categorised under four heads. They are Ordinary Repairs, Periodical Renewals, Special Repairs and Emergent Repairs. Under the Ordinary Repairs, we have, for example, potholes and things like that where sealing of the road top has to be done. Under Periodical Renewals, in respect of National Highways, which have been developed, every four or five years, they need some overlay work on them. This is done periodically. So, the funds are allocated towards that. Then, there is the Special Repairs head; that is, where bridges and bigger structures damaged are repaired, we allocate funds under this head. The last is the 'Emergent Repairs', where roads damaged because of floods, cyclones and other natural calamities are repaired.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Manohar Joshi.

SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Then, who will provide for ambulances and other services?

SHRI R.P.N. SINGH: That is on the national highway stretches on BOT.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what mechanism is there to know that the road is in bad condition and whether there is any supervisory authority of the Central Government to see whether the roads are being properly repaired. I would also like to know whether the money allocated for meeting the expenses on a particular road, is also used for repairs on the other roads. Is the Minister aware of this?

SHRI R.P.N. SINGH: Sir, we have officers from our Ministry, posted in every State, who look into the works which are done and also the estimates which come from the State. But I can understand the hon. Member's statement that the work of repairs may not be up to the quality which is desired. During the current financial year, the Ministry has got a sum of Rs. 1,060 crore under Maintenance and Repairs, against our requirement of Rs. 2,500 crore. This is about 43 per cent of the requirement. We have asked for more funds as far as repairs and maintenance of National Highways is concerned. We always keep updating and checking the progress. It is always that the works, which are approved by our Ministry, are looked into, including the works carried out by the State PWD.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we take the next supplementary, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the specific wordings of this question. I find from the main supplementary, as also from other supplementaries, that we are deviating from the question and making it a more generalised subject. The question relates to maintenance of National Highways in Maharashtra, and I would request that supplementaries be put precisely on that. Now, Shrimati Jaya Bachchan ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not relevant. The concerned Minister has answered.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, this should not go on record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This will not go on record.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Sir, I am very glad that a substantial amount of money has been given for the upkeep and maintenance of the National Highways in Maharashtra. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether they have really supervised, or, seen what kinds of repairs and maintenance are being done. And if you have done, when it was done. I am sure it was not done in the last five or six years.

SHRI R.P.N. SINGH: Sir, I have already answered it. We have officers from our Ministry stationed in all places. We keep looking at the upkeep of roads because the National Highways are under our Ministry. We have officers who are placed in all these States. And, I would like to tell the hon. Member that we are looking after all our roads, and we are checking them periodically.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Sir, I disagree and I am not satisfied with the Minister's answer.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : Sir, it is a question of funding for maintenance of national highways. Sir, I would like to put a supplementary about Jammu and Kashmir ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Maharashtra, please.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: There is a precedent in this House. The question is about funding. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति : देखिए, मैंने अभी कहा है कि आप सब्जेक्ट पर पूछिए।

प्रो. सैफुद्दीन सोज़ : मेरी दरख्वास्त यह है कि हमारे जम्मू-कश्मीर में नेशनल हाइवेज़ का जो मेंटिनेंस है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

پروفیسر سیف الدین سوز: میری درخواست یہ ہے کہ ہمارے جموں کشمیر میں نیشنل ہائی ویز کا جو مینٹینس ہے --(مداخلت)--†

*Not recorded.

†[Transliteration in Urdu Script]

श्री सभापति : आप बहुत सीनियर आदमी हैं।

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: It is a question of funding. Therefore, I must be permitted. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is a precedent in this House. Initially it can remain confined to Maharashtra, but, then, this question should open up to cover the entire country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't think the practice of opening up is particularly helpful. ...*(Interruptions)*...

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Sir, I will briefly raise the question of Jozilla. The funding for maintenance of national highways in Jammu and Kashmir must be augmented because one of the national highways, *i.e.*, Sri Nagar – Leh through Kargil...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid, I have to rule this out of order because it does not pertain to the question.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: It is the question of funding for maintenance of national highways. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please read the question.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Sir, it is about Maharashtra. That is true, but, there is a precedent in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Sir, it is about a strategic part of a road which is connecting to the border of our country. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I fully appreciate the point. ...*(Interruptions)*...

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Sir, kindly listen to the question and you will appreciate it. Sir, the question is that it was with great sacrifices that our armed forces did proud to this country that they captured Jozilla way back in 1947. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Soz Saheb, my request to you...*(Interruptions)*...

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: We want a tunnel there so that it remains an all-weather road. The people of Kargil are in difficulty. You kindly augment the funding so that we have a tunnel at Jozilla which will bring relief to the armed forces as well as to the people of Kargil. At present, Kargil is isolated. There is an agitation going on...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is Jozilla in Maharashtra? ...*(Interruptions)*...

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Jozilla is in India. ...*(Interruptions)*... Jozilla is in India. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are discussing Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)*...

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Sir, give me two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री बलबीर पुंज : सर, आप महाराष्ट्र की बात करते हैं, राष्ट्र की बात नहीं करते।

श्री सभापति : मैं सवाल की बात कर रहा हूं, किसी और चीज की बात नहीं कर रहा हूं।

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Sir, it was Field Marshall Thimayya. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R.P.N. SINGH: Sir, the hon. Member can write me a letter regarding this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please write a letter and get an answer. The Minister has offered to answer the question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Thank you. We go on to the next question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: चेयरमैन साहब, कभी हमको भी मौका दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: सर, महाराष्ट्र के बारे में ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you have a question on Maharashtra? ...*(Interruptions)*... Just put one supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : सभापति महोदय, महाराष्ट्र में जो हालत नेशनल हाइवेज़ की अनेक जगह है, उसको देखते हुए मेरा स्पेसिफिक क्वेश्चन है कि महाराष्ट्र ने रिपेयर्स के लिए कितना पैसा मांगा था? इन्होंने तो कितना दिया है, यह बताया है, लेकिन कितनी मांग थी और कितना दिया है, यह मुद्दा है। इसी के साथ बहुत सारे रोड्स को नेशनल हाइवे की मान्यता देने का भी प्रस्ताव महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने दिया है, उसके बारे में क्या किया गया है?

SHRI R.P.N. SINGH: Sir, I have already told the House earlier that yes; I agree that there is a great demand for upgrading and maintenance of roads.

श्री बलबीर पुंज : सर, हिन्दी में सवाल किया गया है, मंत्री जी हिन्दी में जवाब दें, मंत्री जी हिन्दीभाषी प्रदेश से आते हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is enough. We have taken precious time on this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R.P.N. SINGH: Sir, I would again read out to the hon. Member that during the current financial year, the Ministry has got a sum of Rs. 1060 crores under maintenance and repair. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: मंत्री जी देशभर का बता रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: आप जवाब सुन लीजिए, आप बीच में क्यों बोल रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: महाराष्ट्र ने कितना मांगा? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: चतुर्वेदी जी, आप बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: सभापति महोदय, एक मिनट मुझे दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए, आपने सवाल नहीं पूछा है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI : Sir, I want to put a supplementary on this question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no supplementary ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R.P.N. SINGH : We have already given Rs. 84.24 crores to Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री बलबीर पुंज: मांगा कितना था? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: मांगा कितना था, यही मैं पूछ रहा हूं? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: मांगा कितना था? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: बात सुन लीजिए। आप पूरी बात सुन लीजिए।

श्री **प्रकाश जावडेकर**: मांगा कितना था ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI R.P.N. SINGH: We can only give the amount of money which we have with us. I have already told you that from the Ministry, Rs. 2500 crores....*(Interruptions)*...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: सभापति जी, यह जवाब ठीक नहीं है ...**(व्यवधान)**... कितनी रकम मांगी थी, यह मैंने पूछा था। इसमें क्या गुप्त है ...**(व्यवधान)**... What is so secret about the demand from the State? What is so secret about it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Let me clarify one position. Please focus on the question.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: यह तो मंत्री जी को भी बताना चाहिए ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: सर, I have asked only one question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R.P.N. SINGH: I do not have the figures. The amount of money which the Maharashtra Government asked for the maintenance of the...*(Interruptions)*... I will send you the details whatever the Maharashtra Government has asked...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: सर, उन्होंने 800 करोड़ रुपए मांगे थे ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI R.P.N. SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप बैठ जाइए ...**(व्यवधान)**... एक मिनट, प्लीज़ ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI R.P.N. SINGH: As I have told you, under what heads the money can be given. We only have Rs. 1,060 crore for all the States.

श्री सभापति : आप बीच में इंटररप्ट मत कीजिए, आप बैठ जाइए ...**(व्यवधान)**... Why this chaos? I do not understand. Please maintain silence for a minute. I would request the hon. Members to read the precise wording of the question. It does not relate to the amount asked by the State Government. ...*(Interruptions)*... It does not. Please read the question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please read the question. It is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, no, it is not like that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: If any Member has the problem with the ruling, please come and see me in the Chamber. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am sorry, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, he has asked a specific question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ahluwalia, I would request those Members....*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Ahluwalia, when the Chair is speaking, you know well enough what to do. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down, all of you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, if any Member has a problem with the Chair's ruling, he is welcome to come and see the Chair in the Chamber, after the Question Hour. Now, Question No. 285.